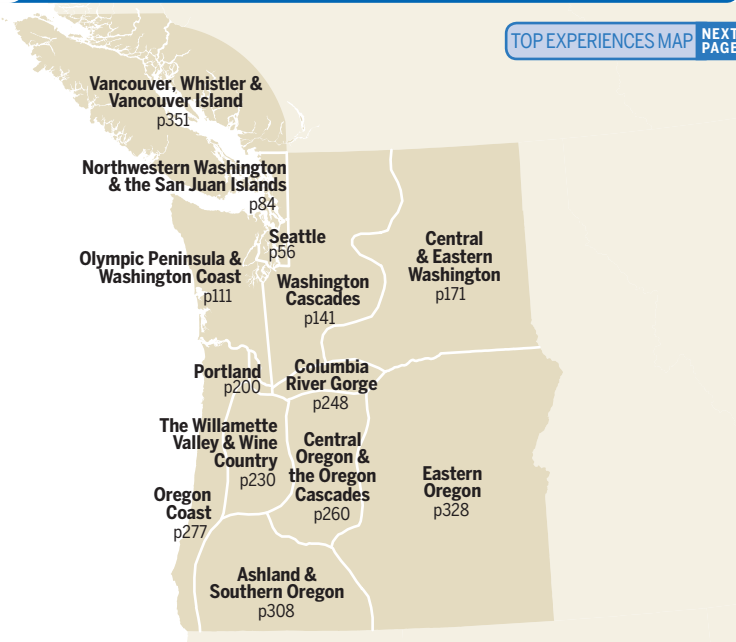


ON THE ROAD

YOUR COMPLETE DESTINATION GUIDE
In-depth reviews, detailed listings
and insider tips

TOP EXPERIENCES MAP **NEXT PAGE**



SURVIVAL GUIDE

YOUR AT-A-GLANCE REFERENCE
How to get around, get a room,
stay safe, say hello

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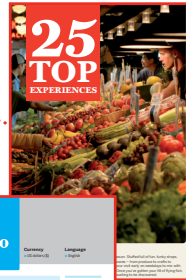
Sandra Bao,
Brendan Sainsbury, John Lee, Becky Ohlsen

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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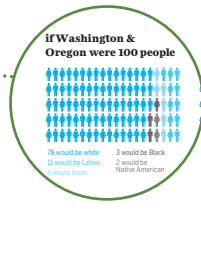


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Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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Washington, Oregon & the Pacific Northwest Top Experiences >



Mt St Helens

Climb a smoking, live volcano (p166)

Portland

Eat on the street from gourmet food carts (p434)

Oregon Wine Country

Taste pinot noir while reenacting *Sideways* (p236)

Oregon Coast

Explore stunning coastline and charming towns (p277)

PACIFIC OCEAN

Mt Hood

Ski in winter, hike in summer (p261)

Columbia River Gorge

Sink your teeth into local produce (p248)

John Day Fossil Beds

See red (and more) in colorful mineral deposits (p343)

Washington Wine Country

Imbibe in WA's wine HQ (p196)





Look out for these icons:



Our author's recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travelers.



One to Two Weeks Along Highway 101

From the California border to **Gold Beach** – renowned for its Rogue River fishing – is some of Oregon's most magnificent coastal scenery. Heading north, **Port Orford** has art galleries and great restaurants, while **Cape Blanco** offers exhilarating views. Check out the sandy hills at **Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area**, and don't miss Newport's first-rate **Oregon Coast Aquarium**. If it's the season, take a whale-watching excursion at **Depoe Bay**. Enjoy the awesome scenery of **Three Capes Drive**, then relax in laid-back **Manzanita**. Upscale **Cannon Beach** is great for people-watching, while cute **Astoria** features historical attractions.

Cross into Washington via the long Astoria-Megler Bridge. Like to drive on sand? Go to **Long Beach**. Further north, beautiful **Lake Quinault** has good fishing and a great lodge. In **Olympic National Park**, be sure to visit the Hoh Rain Forest, with its short but magical Hall of Moss Trail. The **Olympic Coastal Strip** boasts 57 miles of wild, isolated coastline. Heading inland, **Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort** is great for a long soak. End your travels at the Victorian hamlet of **Port Townsend**.



Four Weeks

Pacific Northwest Grand Tour

Just want to hit the highlights? Then load up the car and drive this way. **Vancouver**, proud host of the 2010 winter Olympics, has lots of wonderful parks, ethnic attractions and cool neighborhoods to experience. Further south, on Vancouver Island, is charming **Victoria**, which offers European atmosphere and picture-perfect scenery. Now head up about 200 miles to **Tofino**, which lies on the island's western coast and is popular in summer for its great surfing and kayaking. If it's winter, however, ski-hounds will want to drive up the amazing Sea to Sky Hwy and hit the slopes at the world-class resort of **Whistler**.

In Washington you can't miss bustling **Seattle**, with its funky neighborhoods, myriad attractions and unique skyline; if you love beer, coffee and gourmet food, you'll be staying a while. Then make your getaway to the beautiful San Juan Islands, perhaps spotting an orca pod along the way. Speaking of which, woodsy **Orcas Island** makes a great destination – you can bike around, climb Mt Constitution (the archipelago's highest point) or just find a quiet spot to relax. Back on the mainland, **Olympic National Park** is the jewel of the Olympic Peninsula, boasting a unique rain forest ecosystem. For more of the state's gorgeous landscapes, **Mt Rainier National Park** is a must; plenty of stunning hiking trails, some with views of glaciers, abound. And wine aficionados shouldn't pass up the chance to taste the goods in Eastern Washington's **Walla Walla**, an attractive, laid-back town.

There's no escaping the attractions in **Portland** – from its landmark Powell's bookstore to its many microbreweries to tax-free (and hip) shopping. Just east are the grand vistas of the **Columbia River Gorge**, laden with dozens of gushing waterfalls and great hiking trails. Nearby **Mt Hood** is unbeatable for camping and hiking, and the historic Timberline Lodge begs a visit – this hotel starred in the movie *The Shining*, after all. There's also skiing on Mt Hood – not just in winter, but every month of the year! Much further south, **Crater Lake National Park** is a geologic wonder with supreme scenery; you can drive around its rim only in summer, when the snow has melted. Finally, if you have time left over, there's the grandeur (and seafood cuisine) of the beautiful **Oregon Coast**.



One to Two Weeks

Island Hop

Washington's San Juans is an archipelago of hundreds of islands covering some 750 sq miles. Only about 60 are inhabited, and just four are accessible by public ferry. Three of these islands bring thousands of vacationers every year, but each has managed to keep a serene atmosphere and distinct character.

San Juan Island has the best tourist facilities of the islands, along with the archipelago's only sizeable town, Friday Harbor. **Lime Kiln Point State Park** has prime whale-watching shores; in June, keep a lookout for killer or minke whales feasting on salmon runs. To the north is **San Juan Island National Historical Park**, with old British military facilities and earthwork fortifications and – on clear days – great mountain views.

The largest of the islands, **Orcas Island** is probably the most beautiful – and the poshest. It's dotted with fancy homes, and the lack of a central town gives it an exclusive neighborhood feel. Check out **Moran State Park**, which offers camping, fishing, hiking and mountain biking. **Mt Constitution**, the highest point in the archipelago, is also here, and features some of the finest views in Washington.

Lopez Island is the most peaceful island, with friendly locals and pastoral charm. Don't expect too many tourist services – agriculture and farming are the main focus here. The mostly flat island is made for cycling, and there's little vehicular traffic.

If you're not pressed for time, a much larger island to explore is British Columbia's **Vancouver Island**. Start in lovely **Victoria**, a cosmopolitan city with a variety of ethnic cultures, along with a touch of old Britain. Can't-miss attractions include the world-famous **Butchart Gardens**, a few miles north of town, and high tea at the grand **Empress Hotel**. Wine-lovers and foodies should head about 40 miles northwest to the **Cowichan Valley**, home to boutique wineries and organic farms. Further west, on the coast, is the town of **Tofino**, where you can go kayaking and spot marine life including gray whales. Nearby is **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve**, home to rain forests, crashing coastal surf, islands to explore and amazing hiking opportunities. Finally, head to land's end at **Cape Scott Provincial Park** to explore remote and pristine beaches; outdoor lovers have miles of challenging trails and backcountry camping opportunities – plus the chance to get away from it all.



Two Weeks

Seattle & Washington

The Pacific Northwest's largest city, **Seattle** has plenty going for it – a great location on Puget Sound, a myriad of dynamic neighborhoods, interesting sights and attractions, lots of first-rate coffee and beer, and – looming over it all – the lofty peak of majestic Mt Rainier. Must-sees include Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, the Seattle Aquarium and the Space Needle, but there's plenty more to keep you busy.

Get out of town by hopping on a ferry to Bainbridge Island, then heading north to **Port Townsend**. With its Victorian architecture and location on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, this picturesque little town is a magnet for artists and eclectic personalities. From here you can take a bicycle on a ferry to the San Juan Islands, though if you want to drive you'll have to access them via Anacortes (more on this later). Work your way east along the Olympic Peninsula, perhaps stopping in Port Angeles for a quick day trip to Vancouver Island's pretty capital, **Victoria**.

Olympic National Park can't be missed. Its coastal strip includes 57 miles of remote beaches with pounding waves and wild scenery; visit Rialto Beach for amazing views. Inland, the Hoh Rain Forest is a prime destination with its famous Hall of Moss Trail. Now head further south to **Lake Quinault**, a gorgeous glacier-fed lake boasting a historic grand lodge. This is the place to go fishing, boating or swimming. Then pack it up and drive to **Olympia**, Washington's lively capital that's full of music culture.

If you like volcanoes, **Mt St Helens** will be on your itinerary. The 30th anniversary of its 1980 blast recently passed – and a new dome is forming. Not to be outclassed, Mt Rainier is another can't miss geologic landmark. Hope for good weather and go hiking among glaciers, alpine meadows and old-growth forests in **Mt Rainier National Park**.

Looping back to Interstate 5, drive up to Anacortes and take a ferry to the beautiful **San Juan Islands**. There are three distinct main islands to explore. San Juan Island has undulating hills and a scenic west coast where you can spot whales; upscale Orcas Island claims the area's highest peak; and Lopez Island is flat, laid-back and great for cycling.



Two Weeks

Portland & Oregon Loop

Start your Oregon adventure in **Portland**, well known for its roses, bridges, beer and progressive politics. Be sure to visit downtown's landmarks and the Pearl District's boutiques; Powell's City of Books is one of the world's largest independent bookstores. Over on the east side of the Willamette River are several distinct and fun neighborhoods including Hawthorne, Mississippi and Alberta. Take frequent breaks in the city's excellent coffee shops or microbreweries.

Now drive west towards the coast to **Astoria**, the first permanent US settlement in the west. Today it's a pleasant port city with a restored downtown, historic museums and Victorian houses. Further south are plenty of beach resorts, fishing towns, state parks and scenic promontories that jut out to sea. If it's summer and you like to camp, there are endless opportunities along the Oregon coast – just reserve ahead. Just south of Florence is the **Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area**, the largest expanse of coastal sand dunes in the US.

Heading inland, you'll soon hit **Eugene**, a liberal and fun-loving city famous for founding Nike and putting out track-and-field champions. Drive further south on mountainous Route 58 to **Crater Lake**, Oregon's only national park, offering supreme views of an old volcanic caldera; the water here – fed only by rain and snow – is some of the clearest and purest in the world. Going north on Route 97 will bring you to **Bend**, a city tailor-made for outdoor lovers. Close by you can go hiking, skiing, fishing, golfing, kayaking, rafting and rock-climbing, among other things. Located on the dry east side of the Cascade Range, Bend also boasts 250 days of annual sunshine – not your stereotypical drizzly Oregon destination.

Driving north you'll branch off onto Route 26, ending at **Mt Hood**, the state's highest peak at 11,240ft. While summiting the volcanic cone is only for hardy mountaineers, there are countless beautiful hikes on Mt Hood's flanks, along with plenty of campsites. Be sure to stop in for a drink (or meal) at the historic Timberline Lodge. Now head north again on Route 35 and you'll come to the **Columbia River Gorge**. Cruise through this amazing geologic feature, stopping for lovely waterfalls and hikes along the way, and you'll eventually finish your loop back where you started – Portland.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Sandra Bao

Coordinating Author, Portland, The Willamette Valley & Wine Country, Columbia River Gorge, Central Oregon Cascades, Oregon Coast, Ashland & Southern Oregon, Eastern Oregon Sandra has lived in Buenos Aires, New York and California, but Oregon has become her final stop. Researching the Beaver state has been a highlight of Sandra's 10-year-long Lonely Planet career. She's come to appreciate the beauty of her home state, how much it has to offer and how

friendly people are in tiny towns in the middle of nowhere.

Sandra lives in Portland with her husband Ben Greensfelder. They've embraced the local green culture by installing rain barrels and solar panels, recycling and running a community compost bin. When Sandra's not traveling she's obsessed with laying brick paths, working on her perennials and growing the perfect tomato.

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Brendan first discovered Washington State through a well-worn copy of the album *Nevermind* by Aberdeen-raised grunge merchants Nirvana. A decade later he visited again in person, from his new home in White Rock, BC, less than 2 miles from the US-Canadian border at Blaine. These days he lives within sight of the Evergreen state (Orcas Island is visible from his kitchen window) and makes regular sorties across the 49th parallel to visit the North Cascades, the San Juan Islands and Seattle.

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OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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